



Town of Newmarket

VotersGuide 2013

Welcome to the Town of Newmarket's voters guide for the March 12, 2013 Election. We hope this guide will assist you in making decisions on the items on the 2013 Ballot. We are not here to encourage you to vote one way or another. We are here just to provide you with the facts and the impacts from a yes or no vote. For more information, and full copies of the Town Warrant and Town Budgets can be picked up copies at Town Hall or visit the Town website at www.newmarketnh.gov.

Article 2: \$14.1m Bond for Waste Water Plant Upgrade

The Town has been aware that it needs to upgrade its wastewater treatment facility for a number of years. Recently, the EPA issued our new operational permit for the facility requiring the Town discharge 0.3 mg/l of nitrogen from the plant. The plant as currently operating cannot meet those standards.

The Town has entered into an agreement with the EPA. This agreement allows the Town to address this issue in a more advantageous manner. It allows the Town to first get to a 0.8mg/l nitrogen level, and then evaluate the impact of this reduction. The agreement requires the Town upgrade its current facility.

A yes vote will authorize the Town Council to issue bonds up to \$14.1m for the purpose of upgrading the plant. The

bond will be paid by Sewer Rates. The average sewer user will see an increase of \$59 per year in their rates over the next eight years to pay for this.

The Town will seek grants to offset any costs of the project. The Town will submit

a request for funding that is available from the Federal Rural Development Program that could fund up to 20% of the project. This would reduce the project costs by \$5m, and could also reduce the sewer users projected rate increase..

ARTICLE 2

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Million, One-Hundred Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$14,100,000) for the purpose of upgrading the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Creighton Street Pump Station. Such sum to be raised by the issuance of Serial Bonds or Notes not to exceed \$14,100,000 under, and in compliance with, the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended) and to authorize the Town Council to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the date, term of payment, and rate of interest thereon. Further, to take such other actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Newmarket, NH. Additionally, to authorize the Town Council to apply for, receive, and expend Federal and State Grants which may at any time become available in accordance with RSA 31:95b, and also to apply for, receive, and expend money from any other Governmental Unit or Private Source to be used for purposes which the Town Council may legally appropriate money. Recommended by the Town Council 6-0. If passed, there will be no impact on the tax rate. There will be an impact on the Wastewater Rates. (3/5 majority vote required). Recommended by the Town Council 6-0.

Article 3: \$2.5m To Develop Macintosh Well

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to raise an appropriate the sum of \$2,502,600 (gross budget) for the development of the Macintosh Well to include electric service, well head development, piping, and land purchase and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,502,600 of bonds and notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended) and to authorize the Town Council to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Further, to authorize the Town Council to apply for, negotiate, contract for, seek and do all things necessary to obtain such Federal and State grants-in-aid, contribution, assistance and to participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486:14 established for this purpose as may be available, and to adopt any resolution relating thereto and to take such other actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Newmarket, NH. Recommended by the Town Council 7-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0. If passed, there will be no impact on the tax rate. There will be no impact on the Water Rates. (2/3 majority vote required).

For some time now, the Town has recognized it does not have enough water resources to meet demands of the residents and businesses in Town.

A number of years ago, the Town agreed to develop the Macintosh Well to avoid a water use and building moratorium from the State

A yes vote on Article 3 would allow the Town to issue bonds for \$2,502,600 to be paid out of the existing Water Capital Projects and Surplus

Fund.

No money would need to be raised through taxation, there and would be no increase in Water Rates.

If approved, we would apply for grants and could receive 20% forgiveness on the bond from the State. The Town Council and Budget Committee unanimously recommend passage of Article 3.

Article 4: FY14 Operating Budget

The Municipal Budget Committee is recommending an Operating Budget of \$9,093,403 for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2014. This is an increase of \$25,360 over the current year or 0.28%. If the budget does not pass the Default Budget is \$9,215,962. This would be a \$147,929 increase over current year or \$122,559 increase over proposed. If passed it will

increase the tax rate 22¢.

The largest impact on the proposed budget is the Town's contribution to the employees' retirement. This amount is mandated by the State Retirement System without any input from the Town.

ARTICLE 4

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$9,093,403? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$9,215,962 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the Town Council may hold one special meeting, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0. Recommended by the Town Council 7-0 If passed, it is estimated that passage of this article will amount to \$6.29 of the tax rate, which is a twenty-two cent increase over the previous year. If the article is defeated, the default budget will amount to \$6.69, which is a sixty-two cents.

Article 5: Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with Police

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Newmarket and the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 215, which represents the Police Employees, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Benefits Increase</u>
FY2014	\$14,432
FY2015	\$19,814

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of fourteen thousand four hundred thirty two dollars (\$14,432) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Recommended by the Town Council 7-0. Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0. If passed, it is estimated that this article will amount to \$0.02 of the tax rate.

The Town and the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 215 have come to a tentative two-year Contract. The agreement calls for a salary increases of 1.5% in FY14 and 2% in FY15 for the Police Officers and Dispatchers. This article would raise \$14,432 in the first year to pay for the increases, and \$19,814 would be included in the next years operating budget.

also came to agreements regarding vacation time, detail pay and bereavement leave.

If this article passes, it will increase the tax rate by two cents. It is recommended to pass by the Town Council by a vote of 7-0 and the Budget Committee, 10-0

The Town and the NEPBA

Article 6: Rescinding the Parking Special Revenue Fund

In 2001, the Town voted to create a Parking Special Revenue Fund for constructing or purchasing parking facilities.

Currently, there is \$184,799 in the Parking Special Revenue Fund.

These funds are not being used and the Town does not have any future plans for their use. In the future, any revenues collected for parking related sources will go into the general fund.

This article will have no impact on the tax rate, and it is unanimously recommended by the Town Council and Municipal Budget Committee.

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict 100% of revenues from all parking revenue to expenditures for the purpose construction, maintaining, acquisition and all other related expenditures that pertains parking issues? Such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the parking special revenue fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of revenue. If this article passes any remaining amounts in the fund shall become part of the general fund accumulated surplus. Recommended by the Town Council 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0. If passed, there will be no impact on the tax rate.

Article 7: Removing a Deficit in the Fire Station/ Public Works Building Project

ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million, two hundred and twenty-four thousand dollars (\$1,224,000) to be transferred to the Fire/Public Works Building Capital Project Fund for the purpose of eliminating a deficit caused by the lapse of bonding authority for construction costs of the Fire/Public Works Building. This sum to come from June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by the Town Council 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0. If passed, there will be no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required)

This article if passed will transfer \$1,224,000 from *Reserved Fund Balance* to the Fire/Public Works Building Capital Project Fund. In 2004, Town Meeting authorized construction of a Fire/Public Works Building and it was completed in the fall of 2004. However, the Town never used their bonding authority and did not issue \$1.6m in bonds to pay for this. Instead, they annually appropriated \$136,000 to repay the general fund balance for \$1.6m that was used to do the project. Since that time, we have

had a reserved fund balance of the amount remaining on our books. The Fire/Public Works Building fund now reports a deficit of \$1.224m. This will wipe the deficit from the Town's general ledger and clean our books. There will be no impact to the tax rate; and since the fund is already reserved, there will be no impact to our unreserved fund balance.

Passage of this article is unanimously recommended by the Town Council and Budget Committee.

Article 8: Change in Purpose of the Fire Capital Reserve Fund

Currently, the Fire Capital Reserve Fund established in 1961 only mentions the use of the fund to purchase fire vehicles. This would allow the fund to be used for other fire related equipment such as radios.

Passage of this article is unanimously recommended by the Town Council and Budget Committee.

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the Fire Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1961 to allow the purchase of Fire and Ambulance equipment and vehicles from said fund. Recommended by the Town Council 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0. If passed, there will be no impact on the tax rate. (2/3 vote required.)

Article 9: Change in Purpose of the Health Insurance Reserve Fund

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the Health Insurance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1999 to allow the use of said funds to include the purpose of stabilizing Health Benefit increases for employees. Recommended by the Town Council 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0. If passed, there will be no impact on the tax rate. (2/3 vote required.)

With the ever increasing costs of health care, this fund would now be able to be used to offset significant increases with monies set aside for this purpose. We receive our final health care insurance rates in March. With the change in the Town Meeting to March from May, we will no longer have the benefit of being adjusting our proposed budget to reflect our actual health insurance rates. Instead, we must budget the guaranteed maximum rate increase that is traditionally higher than the actual rate. This difference could be put aside annually to offset unforeseen large increases.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE MARCH 12, 2013
7AM TO 8PM TOWN HALL**

List of Candidates for Town Office

Town Council - 2 for 3 years

Larry Pickering
119 Ash Swamp Rd

Dale S. Pike
30 Smith Garrison Rd

Budget Committee - 3 for 3 years

David Foltz
77 Elm St

William "Blue" Foster
11 Langs Lane

Larry Pickering
119 Ash Swamp Rd

Rose-Anne Kwaks
332 Wadleigh Falls Rd

Planning Board - 2 for 3 years

Eric Botterman
8 Raymond Lane

Janice Rosa
340 Wadleigh Falls Rd

Planning Board - 1 for 2 years

No Candidates

Trustees of Trust Funds - 1
for 3 years
"Rick" McMenimen
72 Pear Tree Ln

Town of Newmarket NH

Article 10: Creation of Town Revaluation Capital Reserve

Pursuant to the State Constitution, the Town is required to conduct a complete property revaluation every five years. Newmarket must complete this by the end of FY2015.

If passed, this article would create a capital reserve fund to put money aside each year to complete this project. Since we only have 2 budget years remaining before the next revaluation, this article would also raise \$40,000 to be put into the fund which is half the estimated cost. Passage of this article is unanimously recommended by the Town Council and Budget Committee.

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars and no cents (\$40,000) to be placed in said fund and to name the Town Council as agents. The purpose of this fund is to comply with the New Hampshire State Constitution and carry out a Town Revaluation in FY15. Recommended by the Town Council 6-0. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0. If passed, it is estimated that this article will amount to \$0.05 of the tax rate (Majority vote required.)

Article 11: Creation of Charter Commission

The Town of Newmarket is unique in New Hampshire as it is one of seven Towns in the State that has a Town Charter. The Town Charter is the document that sets up the Town Government, much like the Constitution is the governing document for the Federal Government. The Town Council is proposing establishing a Charter Commission to review the charter to see if there are any changes that may be necessary. The Town Administrator and the Town Clerk - Tax Collector has informed the Town Council of a number of areas in the Charter that are inconsistent with State law or other parts of the Town Charter.

If this article passes, a special election will have to be held in May to elect 9 Charter Commissioners. These Commissioners will then review the Charter over the year and place any proposed amendments on the ballot in March 2014.

ARTICLE 11

Shall a charter commission be established for the purpose of revising the municipal charter or establishing a new municipal charter? Recommended by the Town Council 7-0.

REMEMBER TO VOTE
MARCH 12, 2013
7AM TO 8PM
TOWN HALL